

Glossary

attitude: A positive or negative feeling about something.

boar: An adult male bear.

carnivore: A flesh-eating animal.

carrying capacity: The largest number of organisms of a given species that an area of habitat can support on a year-round basis.

community: All the people living in the same place; A neighborhood; All the living things in any one place.

conservation: The care, wise use, and management of natural resources in order to prevent depletion.

cub: A young animal, like a bear or panther, that is less than one year old.

ecosystem: A community of living things together with its physical environment considered as a unit; A community of animals, plants, and bacteria interacting with each other and with their non-living chemical and physical surroundings.

endangered: A species that is in danger of becoming extinct throughout its natural range.

extinct: A species of animals or plants whose members have completely disappeared.

food chain: A group of animals and plants in a community through which energy flows in the form of food.

foraging: A type of feeding behavior whereby an animal meanders through an area and feeds on appropriate food items as it comes across them.

genus: A group of species with common characteristics; In taxonomy, the group that follows a family and precedes a species.

habitat: A natural area that provides the basic requirements an organism needs to survive including food, water, shelter, and space.

habitat fragmentation: The process of breaking larger areas of habitat into smaller pieces, often as a result of human development activities such as road building and urbanization.

habitat loss: The permanent alteration or conversion of natural habitat for human use.

herbivore: An animal whose diet consists primarily of plant matter, such as a rabbit, a deer, or a mouse.

hibernation: The state of being inactive during a winter so that most or all of an animal's life processes are slowed down or suspended.

hind: The back or rear.

limiting factor: Factors such as food, water, shelter, and space that determine the maximum number of organisms that can survive in a given habitat.

litter: The young animals produced by one mother at one time.

marginal habitat: A habitat that provides minimal or less than ideal amounts of food, water, shelter, space, and other habitat requirements for a particular species.

mortality: Death.

nourish: To grow; to keep alive and well with food.

nuisance: Causing trouble, annoyance or danger.

omnivore: An animal whose diet consists of a mixture of plant and animal matter (meat).

poaching: Killing game animals illegally.

predator: An animal that lives by preying on other animals.

preserve: To protect or save.

protein: One of the substances containing nitrogen; A necessary part of the cells of plant and animals; Contained in foods such as meat, milk, cheese, eggs, insects, and beans.

range: An area where an animal frequents, including the extreme limits of this area.

scavengers: Animals that feed on dead or decaying matter.

sow: An adult female bear.

species: A group of organisms that can breed and produce fertile offspring; a group of related living things that have certain common characteristics.

survive: To continue to exist or live; to remain.

territory: A land or region; An area that an animal lives, roams, and protects from others.

threatened species: A species that is likely to become endangered in the near future